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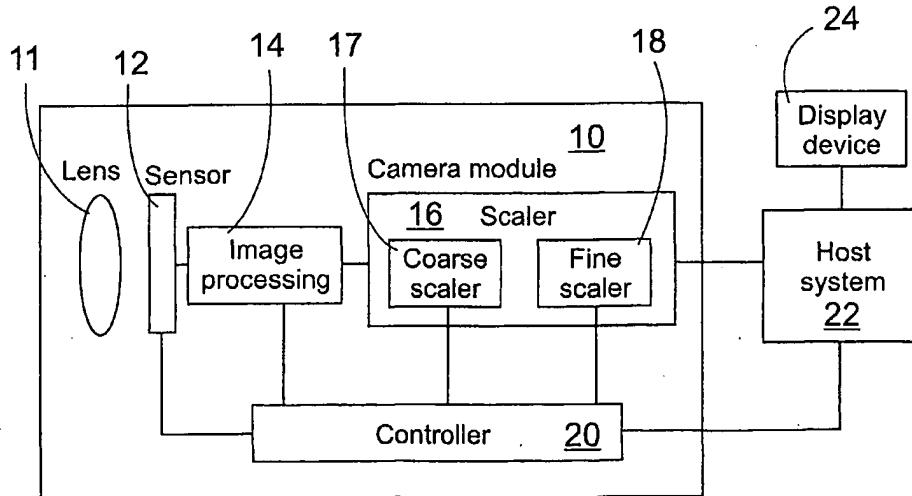
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DOWNSCALING A DIGITAL MATRIX IMAGE



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(57) **Abstract:** The invention relates to a method and apparatus for downscaling a digital matrix image, using a selected ratio R, in which the matrix image includes a large number of lines, each line including a large number of pixels, so that the intensity values of the pixels form the matrix, and in which the output matrix pixels formed by scaling correspond to sub-groups of the original matrix, from the intensity values of the pixels of which an average is calculated for each pixel of the output matrix. In the solution, three integers X, Y, and Z are selected in such a way that the scaling ratio R corresponds approximately to the equation $Y/(Z*X)$, in which $Y < Z$, and scaling is performed in two stages, of which in the first stage, the matrix is scaled using the ratio $1/X$, thus creating the pixels of an intermediate matrix and, in the second stage, the each pixel of the intermediate matrix is scaled using the ratio Y/Z .



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